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HULK

2044



DIRECT EDITION



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

NO EXIT

HEY
CIVILIZATION-

CIVILIZE
THIS!!

BEGINNING THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES OF THE
LAST WILD MAN OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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THIS
USED TO
BE OPEN
SPACE --

-- A
WATER
RECLAMATION
ZONE FOR THAT
FAT, GUZZLING
LEECH CALLED
LOS
ANGELES!

NOW
SOMEBODY'S
BOUGHT IT! USING
SECURITY DROIDS
TO KEEP PEOPLE
OUT!

CIVILIZATION!
YOU CAN'T EVEN
GET OUT OF THEIR
POISON WORLD
WITHOUT A
FIGHT!

WELL,
FIGHTS
I CAN
HANDLE.

ONE
MORE
TASK!

ONE
MORE DUTY
FOR MY PINK, WORMY
LITTLE HUMAN SELF TO
WASH AWAY THE BLOOD
OF MY PAST CORRUPTION
-- THEN I'LL LEAVE THIS
NEON HELL TO ROAM
THE DESERT!

I --
WILL --

**BE
FREE!**



YOU
THINK YOU
LOSERS
CAN BEAT
HOLLY-
WOOD?

THE KNIGHTS
OF THE BANNER
WOULD RATHER DIE
THAN TELL OUR SECRETS
TO YOUR CORRUPTION!

LOTUSLAND ENTERTAINMENT. WHERE MY
WORRY PINK SELF MADE HIS DIRTY FORTUNE
IN VIRTUAL REALITY PROGRAMMING.

RIGHT ABOUT NOW THEY
ARE SHOOTING A
LIE-FILLED VERSION OF
THE STORY OF MY LAST --
AND UGHEST -- DEAL.



WHERE
IS JOHN, ANY-
WAY? HE GOT
THIS "KNIGHTS"
PROPERTY FOR
US. YOU'D
THINK HE'D
BE HERE.

SURPRISED,
TY? YOU KNOW
HOW WEIRD JOHN'S
BEEN ACTING EVER
SINCE HE GOT
THE KNIGHTS
SLAUGHTERED.

YOU COUNT JOHN'S
MISTAKES A LOT MORE
CAREFULLY THAN I DO,
KEISHA. YOU'RE THE
ONE IN LINE TO TAKE
OVER HIS JOB.

YOU
MUST BE JUST
DROOLING OVER
THESE RUMORS OF
A NEW OWNER
BUYING THE
STUDIO.

Oh, TY.
YOU CAN'T
THINK TO PLOT
AGAINST MY DEAR
FRIEND JOHN TO
ADVANCE MY
OWN --



ALL LOTUSLAND
PERSONNEL!

AUDRA --!

ALL
PRODUCTION
WILL STOP
IMMEDIATELY!

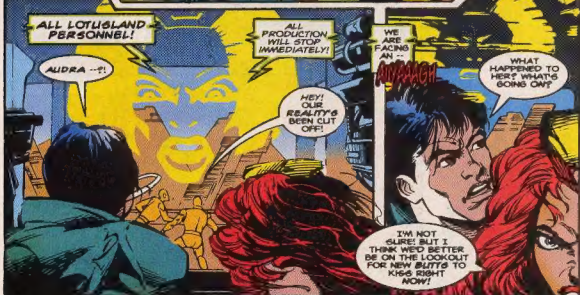
HEY!
OUR
REALITY'S
BEEN CUT
OFF!

WE
ARE
FACING
AN --

APPROACH

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HER? WHAT'S
GOING ON?

I'M NOT
SURE! BUT I
THINK WE'D BETTER
BE ON THE LOOKOUT
FOR NEW BUTTS TO
KISS RIGHT
NOW!



ME, I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY'RE DOING AT LOTUS-LAND. THIS IS MY LAST TRIP THERE.

I'M GONNA CASH OUT MY CONTRACT, SET THE KID UP WITH SOME HEALTH-CULTISTS IN THE DESERT WHO'LL KEEP HIM SAFE...AND GO.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BRING THE KID. HE'S THE LAST OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE BANNER. HE'S GOT SOME PURITY LEFT IN HIM.

BRINGING HIM TO A HOLLYWOOD STUDIO IS LIKE DIPPING YOUR ICE CREAM CONE INTO A SEWAGE VAT.

-- BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU AT MY PLACE TO BE HUNTED DOWN!

QUIRK WAS SUPPOSED TO GUARD YOU, BUT SINCE SHE WALKED OUT ON US --

YOU DROVE HER AWAY!

NOW WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME TO DIE, LIKE YOU LEFT MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS?!

SAWAIN... I'M NOT GOING TO DEFEND WHAT I DID! BUT WHAT I DID CHANGED ME. I'M NOT THE JOHN EISENHART WHO BETRAYED YOU.

I SAVED YOUR LIFE AND NURSED YOU BACK TO HEALTH BECAUSE --

BECAUSE YOU WANT ME TO FORGIVE YOU! SO YOU CAN STOP FEELING GUILTY!

WELL, I'M NEVER GOING TO DO THAT! NEVER!

SAWAIN...

LOOKS OUT

THIS IS A ONE-WAY ZONE, IDIOT! ARE YOU CRAZY?



CRAZY.

JUST WHEN I THINK
CIVILIZATION'S GONE
AS INSANE AS IT
CAN, I SEE THIS.

EVERY-
BODY'S
CLEARING
OFF THE
LOT!

THERE'S
A PANIC
GOING
ON!



WELL, AT LEAST PARKING
WASN'T A PROBLEM, FOR
A CHANGE.



STAY HERE --
AND STAY LOW!
I'LL BE BACK
AS FAST AS
I CAN!

I
CAN'T
WAIT.

GETTING TO MY
OFFICE IS LIKE
FIGHTING
THROUGH
A STREAM OF
SPAWNING
SALMON. ONLY
THE CROWD
ISN'T QUITE AS
CUDDLY.

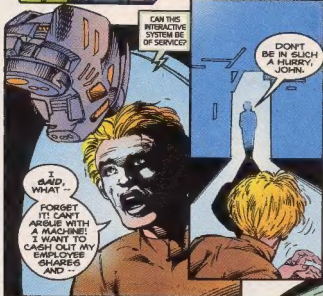


I DON'T WASTE
TIME ASKING
WHAT'S GOING
ON. I JUST WANT
MY BOSS --

AUDRA!
IT'S JOHN!

AUDRA WEISSMAN
WILL NO LONGER BE
AVAILABLE THROUGH
THIS EXCHANGE.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER?



I
SAID,
WHAT --

FORGET
IT! CAN'T
ARGUE WITH
A MACHINE!
I WANT TO
CASH OUT MY
EMPLOYEE
SHARES AND --

CAN THIS
INTERACTIVE
SYSTEM BE
OF SERVICE?

DON'T
BE IN SUCH
A HURRY,
JOHN.



ODD
YOU SHOULD
BE SO EAGER
TO LEAVE...
RIGHT
NOW.

I
THINK
WE SHOULD
TALK.

DR. PHIL, THE STUDIO'S "MOOD
MANAGEMENT EXPERT." THEIR
BRAIN WASHER.



JOHN,
YOU SELFISH
ARROGANT,
HEARTLESS
...DWARF!

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE GONNA
STICK AROUND TO
TAKE CARE OF GAWAIN,
AND PROTECT THE
HELPLESS,
AND BE NEAR
ME!

SO WHAT'RE
YOU DOING? HEADING
FOR THE DESERT TO PLAY
NATURE BOY? MAN, I WISH IT
WAS THE NINETEEN NINETIES --
WHEN HEROES WERE
HEROES!

HEY
BIG BABY! WE
GOT A CUTE LITTLE
SOMETHING COMING
UP THAT MAYBE
WE SHOULD
OUGHTTA
INVESTIGATE!



CAREFUL, LIL' SISTER! DON'T
YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN AN
UNSUPERVISED ZONE?
THAT MEANS A BADASS
NEIGHBORHOOD IF YOU
DON'T BELONG!

LUCKY
YOU MET LIL'.
WE'RE EYES
HERE. YOU
KNOW WHAT
EYES
ARE?

YEAH,
GANGSTER
THUGS WHO PASS
FOR COPS WHERE
THERE'S NO
MONEY TO PAY
FOR THE REAL
THING.

NO, HONEY.
EYES ARE WHAT
YOU GOT THAT
MAKE ME
CRAAAAZY!



HYUH
HYUH!
HYUH!

NOW
WE COULD
MAKE LIFE A
LOT SAFER FOR
YOU, OR A
LOT --



THAT'S
WHAT I
SHOULDA
DONE TO
YOU,
JOHN!

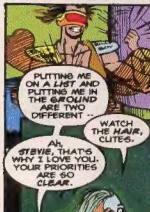


QUIRK?!

WELL, IT AIN'T THE NEW-MODEL QUIRK SIMULACRUM!

NOT THAT ANYBODY'D WANT TO BUILD ONE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, CUTE! WEAREN'T YOU ON THE CHILL-LIST FOR CUTTING ANTI-CORPORATE TUNES?



PUTTING ME ON A LIST AND PUTTING ME IN THE GROUND ARE TWO DIFFERENT --

WATCH THE HAIR, CUTES.

AH, STEVIE, THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU. YOUR PRIORITIES ARE SO CLEAR.

WELL, YOU KNOW, THE STUFF SOUND ISN'T GETTING MUCH DISTRIBUTION LATELY...

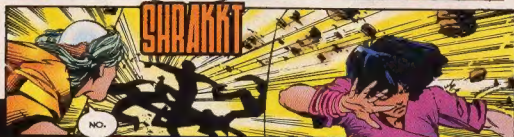
BUT I'M WORKING ON A NEW SOUND!

A RETRO-HEROIC ASH REEF, KIND OF A GARTH-BROOKS-MEETS-SNOOP-DOGGY-DOGS THING.

THAT OFFER OF STUDIO SPACE STILL AVAILABLE?

AS LONG AS IT ISN'T TOO... CONTROVERSIAL, QUIRK.

OH I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! "STEVIE USED TO LIVE FOR CONTROVERSY!" BUT SOMETHINGS HAPPENED TO THE SMALL MUSIC HOUSES. SOMETHING --



NO.

YOUR STUDIO HAS BEEN PURCHASED IN A HOSTILE TAKEOVER.

ON BEHALF OF YOUR NEW MANAGEMENT WE WILL BE REMOVING POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS.



WE BELIEVE YOU MAY HAVE ACQUIRED INFORMATION OF VALUE TO LOTUSLAND, JOHN.

AS YOU KNOW, YOUR CONTRACT STATES THAT ALL YOUR THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES WHILE IN OUR EMPLOY BELONG TO US.

MY EQUIPMENT CAN EXTRACT THE INFORMATION IF NECESSARY, BUT IT WOULD BE EASIER IF...

JUST ASK YOUR BLASTED QUESTIONS -- DOCTOR!

IT'S ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF THE BANNER, ISN'T IT?

I'VE ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION I CAN ABOUT THEM. WHY I DISAPPEARED FOR A WHILE AFTER I GOT THEIR STORY, WHY --

I KNOW, JOHN. BUT THE STUDIO HAS NEW INVESTORS...

...WHO THINK THOSE "KNIGHTS" MIGHT BE CONNECTED TO A SCHEME TO RECREATE THE LEGENDARY HULK OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MY JOB HERE WAS TO HUNT DOWN PROPERTIES FOR VIRTUAL REALITY PROGRAMMING. I FOCUSED ON CULTS BECAUSE I LIKED THE CHALLENGE.

I HEARD ABOUT SOME "MEN'S MOVEMENT" RADICALS IN THE DESERT...THE KNIGHTS. THEY LIVED BY THE "WARRIOR'S CODE." YOU KNOW...

"...HONOR, TRUST, DUTY."

"IT WAS PATHETIC."

"WOULDN'T SELL ME THEIR STORIES. VALUED 'HONOR' MORE THAN HOLLYWOOD MONEY."

"LUCKILY THERE WAS ONE I COULD GET TO. A KID NAMED GAWAIN."

"ONE RIDE IN A FAST CAR AND HE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT THE KNIGHTS' ILLEGAL SAMMA-RAY EXPERIMENTS."

"DID HE TELL YOU
WHAT THEY WANTED
TO CREATE WITH
THOSE GAMMA-
RAYS, JOHN?"

"NOT A THING,
PHIL. NOT A
THING."

"BUT THE EXPERIMENTS
GAVE ME WHAT I NEEDED
TO TAKE THE SECRETS
THEY WOULDN'T TELL ME."

"I REPORTED
THEM."

"THE RESPONSE
WAS SWIFT."

"THE KNIGHTS
FOUGHT BACK.
THEIR IDIOT
CODES."

"AND THEN THERE
WERE NO MORE
KNIGHTS, EXCEPT
THE KID."

"DID YOU CARE
ABOUT THE
BOY, JOHN?"

"CAN'T EVEN
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
LOOKED LIKE,
PHIL."

"THEY SAID YOU FLEW
INTO THE BATTLE,
TRYING TO SAVE THE
KNIGHTS."

"JUST WANTED
A CLOSER LOOK.
GOT HIT."

"AND THE BOY
GAMMA? DID
YOU TRY TO
SAVE HIM?"

"NEVER SAW
HIM AGAIN."

"WHAT CAUSED THEIR
GAMMA-DEVICES TO
EXPLODE, JOHN?"

HOW
WOULD I
KNOW? WHY
WOULD I GET
NEAR THAT
THING?

I
WAS JUST
TRYING TO SAVE
MY OWN
SKIN!



"SOME KNIGHT
PROBABLY DID
IT TO AVENGE
THE OTHERS'
DEATHS. FOR
HONOR."

"MORONS
BETTER
OFF DEAD"

"ALL I KNOW
WAS I SAW
A FLASH"

"I'LL ADMIT IT
SHOOK ME UP
A LITTLE. I
MEAN"

WHO KNOWS WHAT
GAMMA RAYS CAN
DO TO A GUY?

SO I TOOK OFF
A FEW DAYS UNTIL
I WAS MYSELF
AGAIN."

CAME BACK,
DISCOVERED I
WAS TOO BORED
WITH THIS KNIGHTS
THING TO FOLLOW
THROUGH WITH
IT

AND
THAT'S WHY I
WANT TO CASH
OUT

THEN YOUR
CONSCIENCE HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH IT?

THIS IS
HOLLYWOOD,
DOCTOR. I
TRADED MY
CONSCIENCE FOR
A PARKING
CLOT

NOW
ABOUT MY
MONEY

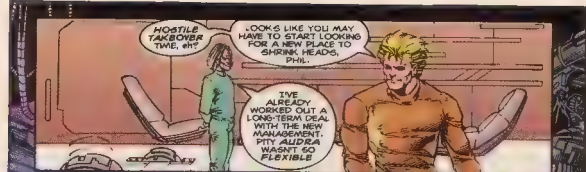


GOOD
MORNING, STAFF.
YOUR NEW EMPLOYER
HAS ARRIVED.

MY NAME IS

DRACO.





HOSTILE TAKEOVER TIME, EH?

LOOKS LIKE YOU MAY HAVE TO START LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO SHRINK HEADS, PHIL.

I'VE ALREADY WORKED OUT A LONG-TERM DEAL WITH THE NEW MANAGEMENT. PITY AUDRA WASN'T SO FLEXIBLE

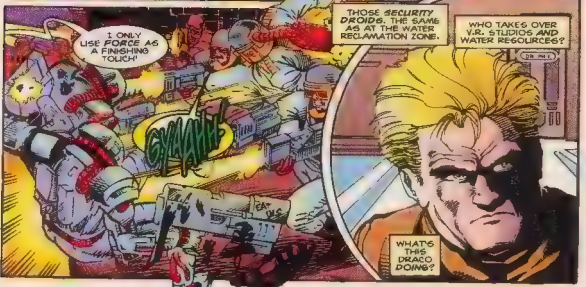


I KNOW THE RULES, PROLE. I'VE BEEN STAGING THIS TAKEOVER FOR WEEKS THROUGH FINANCE AND LAW.

THIS ISN'T NEW YORK, DRACO AND YOU AREN'T ALCHIBMAK!

YOU DON'T JUST TAKE OVER A STUDIO BY FORCE IN CALIFORNIA!

BOOM



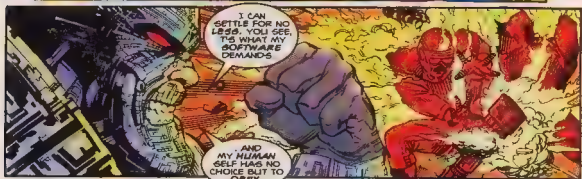
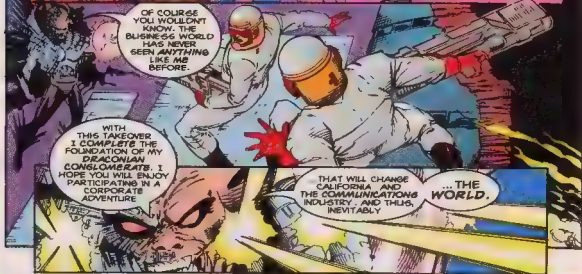
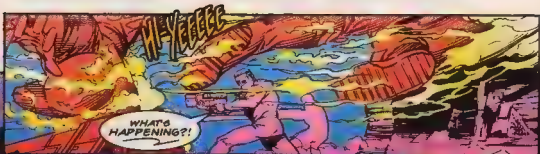
I ONLY USE FORCE AS A FINISHING TOUCH!

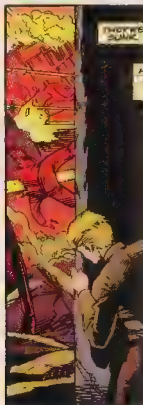
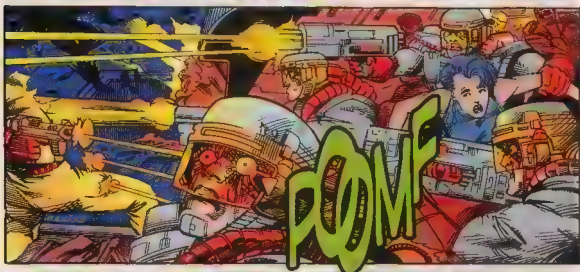
THOSE SECURITY DROIDS. THE SAME AS AT THE WATER RECLAMATION ZONE.

WHO TAKES OVER V.R. STUDIOS AND WATER RESOURCES?

GAAAH

WHAT'S THIS DRACO DOING?





NO

LET 'EM FIGHT OVER THIS CORPORATE CARCASS. IT'S NOT MY WORLD ANYMORE.

I'M GETTING GAWAIN OUT OF HERE AND HEADING FOR THE DESERT WHERE I BELONG.

MISTER DRACO?
KEISHA SCHULTZ-VALDEZ

I JUST WANT TO WELCOME YOU ABOARD! THE OLD MANAGEMENT JUST DIDN'T HAVE IT ANYMORE, SO I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE CHANGE!

AND I'M THINK YOU'LL FIND ME TO BE A REALLY VALUABLE EMPLOYEE!

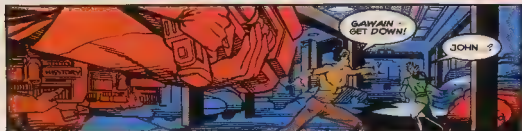
A QUICK WITTED ONE, AT LEAST.

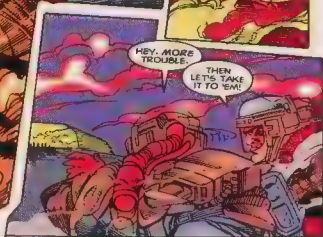
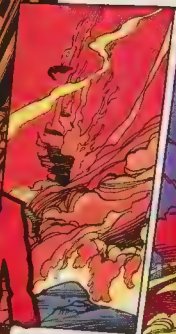
THE NEXT PARKING BAY JUST A FEW MORE

HA!!

BLAST IT I STOP AND I'M DEAD

I KEEP RUNNING -- AND LEAD 'EM RIGHT TO GAWAIN!





HE WAS THE
LAST OF THE
KNIGHTS

THE LAST FURRY
THING I KNEW

OUT LIKE
CANDLE

LAST OF THE
KNIGHTS

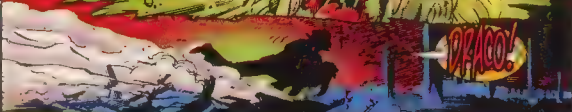
UNRECOVERED



RECOVERED



DRACO!



DRACO!



DRACO!



...LONG
ENOUGH!

IT
STOPS
HERE,
DRACO!

SO,
THE PREVIOUS
MANAGEMENT DID
HAVE AN ACE UP
ITS TATTERED
SLEEVE.

I DON'T WORK FOR
ANY MANAGEMENT,
BYTE-FACE!

AND I
DON'T GIVE A
SHOCK FOR
THIS TINSEL-
TOWN
TRASH!

BUT I
OWE THE
WORLD SOME-
THING NOW! I'LL
SPEND THE REST
OF MY LIFE HERE
PAYING IT
OFF --

WHOOOM



HULK **VS.** **DRACO!** **HONOR** **VS.** **AVARICE!**

LIBERTARIAN EGOISM VS. POSTCAPITALIST CYBERNETIC CORPORATISM!
WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM A COMIC BOOK, ANYWAY?!
SEE YOU NEXT ISH!

TONGUE LASHINGS



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ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOU NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST.

Out of My Head

It's our very first issue, and we're celebrating with a **BIG 2099 CONTEST!**

If YOU can tell which pages of this issue were turned into the consistency of runny egg white by some little weasel who isn't fit to walk the earth with people and **SHOULD BE GROUND INTO BABY POWDER WITH MY BARE HANDS**, and had to be reconstructed with what meager resources we could muster...YOU can win! Be one of the **FIRST THREE** to write an tell us which pages were turned to soap suds in a freak accident thanks to some **INKSTAIN WHO, IN A COUNTRY WHERE THEY HAD SOME DECENT CRIME LAWS, WOULD HAVE HIS HANDS CUT OFF AT THE SHOULDERS**, and **WIN!**

- 1) A GOLD X-MEN 2099 #1!
- 2) A 2099 SKETCHBOOK!
- 3) The 2099 LIMITED Ashcan!
- 4) RAVAGE 2099 #1!
- 5) An X-MEN 2099 promo poster!
- 6) The original 2099 promo poster, featuring ODOM, SPIDEY, THE PUNISHER and RAVAGE!

Sheesh! NOW ask what an editor does all day. I need a laugh.



Dear causers of the big bang in the Marvel Universe,

I'm extremely delighted that you've decided to give the Not-So-Jolly Green Giant his own series! This'll be a good step for him career-wise. All I want now is a short release date so that I can get my hands on it as soon as possible!

About the villains that the Hulk 2099 is fighting. I realize that he's new and has few narratives yet but I'm already tired of the Godzilla theme. That is, fighting one monster after another. Why not try something other than genetic experiments against him? How about mutants or a technological wonder? I liked the mile-long mail: it was a different and original idea.

In 2099 Unlimited #5, a Hulk/Hulk 2099 crossover was suggested. I

agree, but don't create too many present/future crossovers. 2099 would lose its uniqueness and maybe a little of its personality.

Time to check out. So, until DC really kills off the S-Men, "Anger is an energy." "Yeah, Right" (I wonder where I got that from?)

And hurry up with that E-Mail line!

Dustin "Wolf" Kent
4813 Duboise NW
Fiedmont, OK 37078

Dustin, we hope Draco is enough of a break from the "Godzilla" thing! As for that E-Mail line, you can reach Matt (Future B) and Lia (FutureGirl) on America Online, and don't forget to check out the 2099 folder in the Comics Forum!



Hey! And don't forget the great cover by Adam Kubert & Kevin Howles!
-Lia

NEXT:

The "Mean, Green and Ugly" one confronts the peerless power of Draco! Reserve your seat for this match now...preferably one where you won't get hit with shrapnel! Gerry, Malcolm and Chris'll be here! Will you?

GoThMan

2044

Project



HaCsA

TMD - Telsar - Mixx - Fullbeard - JDStrutts
Grovelman - Jnx - MMBacon - Seo - DelHC - Fett
Solomon Grundy - Escape - Neon Vincent - | - Gothman - | -